no-economic viability appraisal and clearance; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF POWER, MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM): (a) to (c) The Government, under the provisions of Section 29(1) of the Electricity (Supply) Act, 1948, has, from time to time, increased the limits of the sum of capital expenditure exceeding which the schemes are required to be submitted to the Central Electricity Authority for its concurrence. This has been done in line with the policy of delegation of powers to the State Governments, to ensure speedier development and also keeping in view the competitive bidding process being adopted for award of private power projects to the developers.

Transmission and Distribution Losses

889. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the transmission and distribution losses of power during last two years;

(b) whether transmission and distribution losses in the world are around 10 per cent, whereas in India they are 20 percent;

(c) the details of factors responsible for transmission and distribution losses; and

(d) the steps taken by Government to reduce transmission and distribution losses?

THE MINISTER OF POWER, MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM): (a) to (d) Transmission & distribution losses for the last two years for which data is available, are given below:

1995-96	22.27%
1996-97	23.41% (provisional)

The transmission & distribution losses in the developed countries are in the range of 6-11% whereas in India it is of the order of 22-23%.

The following factors are responsible for high T & D losses:

Technical Losses:

(i) Weak and inadequate sub-transmission and distribution system due to inadequate investment and low priority being given to these works.

(ii) Improper load management resulting in overloading of systems and poor voltage profiles.

(iii) Large scale rural electrification programme at low voltage level being undertaken in the country resulting in long lines and extension of distribution network, without strengthening the back up transmission and sub-transmission system.

(iv) Inadequate maintenance of equipment.

Commercial Losses:

(i) Unmetered supply to consumers.

(ii) Pilferage and theft of energy.

(iii) Defective meters, meter reading errors, tampering of meters etc.

Power distribution falls within the purview of State Governments and SEBs/EDs. They are responsible for taking necessary steps for reduction of the T & D losses. However "Guidelines for reduction of T & D losses" were issued in February, 1986 and were subsequently revised in 1991. In accordance with the guidelines, the utilities were advised to conduct pilot studies to evolve optimal parameters for loading of different sizes of conductors, length of lines, distribution transformation capacities etc. They were also advised to formulate system improvement schemes based on these studies. The guidelines for conducting Energy Audit, were issued to SEBs/EDs in April, 1986 and were revised in May,

1992, wherein the usefulness and desirability of conducting energy audit in the power system was clearly brought out.

Theft of electricity has been made a cognizable offence from August, 1986 under the amended provisions of Section 39 of Indian Electricity Act, 1910 and the utilities have been advised use the same to book the offenders.

From the year 1987, an incentive scheme has also been introduced by Ministry of Power to motivate the SEBs/ EDs to reduce T & D losses.

Counter Guarantees for Power Sector

890. SHRI ANIL SHARMA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) how many counter guarantees in power sector have been signed by Government since January, 1998;

(b) what are the terms of these counter guarantees; and

(c) whether any more requests for counter guarantees from IPPs are pending with Government?

THE MINISTER OF POWER, MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM): (a) and (b) On 16.5.1998, the Government approved extension of counter-guarantee in the case of the Bhadravati Thermal Power Project (1082 MW) of M/s Central India Power Company (CIPCO) in Maharashtra, 250 MW single unit lignite based Neyveli Thermal Power Project of M/s ST-CMS Electric Company in Tamil Nadu and Visakhapatnam Thermal Power Project (1040 MW) of M/s Hinduja National Power Company Limited (HNPCL) in Andhra Pradesh, through a revised procedure. It was, *inter-alia*, decided that counter guarantee will be given only for the event of termination and will be limited to the outstanding foreign debt only. All the above three counter guarantees were signed on 1.8.1998, 14.8.1998 and 19.8.1998 respectively.

(c) Requests for counter guarantee of Government of India from promoters of two private power projects are pending. Counter Guarantee had been accorded to the Ib Valley Thermal Power Project (Unit 3 & 4) of M/s AES Ib Valley Power Corporation in Orissa. Subsequently, the State Government re-negotiated the project parameters with M/s AES Ib Valley Power Corporation and they were allocated Units 5 & 6 (now renamed as Unit A & B) of the Ib Valley Thermal Power Project. Fresh techno-economic clearance of Central Electricity Authority (CEA) is necessary for this project on account of the revised project parameters.

In the case of the 1000 MW Mangalore thermal power project of M/s Mangalore Power Company in Karnataka, the Government has decided that further steps for issue of counter guarantee for this project would be taken once the decision of the Supreme Court on the SLP filed by Government of Karnataka against the judgment of High Court of Karnataka in the Public Interest Writ Petition No. 10696/97 is available.

विद्युत ग्रिडों को परस्पर जोड़ा जाना

891. श्री गोविन्दराम मिरी: क्या विद्युत मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या सरकार ने देश में सभी विद्युत ग्रिडों को परस्पर जोड़ने हेतु कोई योजना बनाई है;

(ख) यदि हां, तो तत्संबंधी ब्यौरा क्या है;

(ग) इस प्रयोजनार्थ कितनी धनराशि व्यय होने का अनुमान है;

(घ) किन-किन स्रोतों से यह धनराशि जुटाने जाने का प्रस्ताव है; और

(ङ) इस योजना को कब तक कार्यान्वित किये जाने की संभावना है?